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9. A vertical bagging apparatus for use with a roll of center folded packaging material, said apparatus comprising:

- a) an upstream feeder spool for holding the roll of center folded packaging material; and
- b) a downstream sealing and severing means for sealing the packaging material and severing it from the roll, wherein said sealing and severing means includes a heated bar having a flat head and an opposed, resilient, non-heated sealing surface having a sharp profile.

Please add new claim 16 as follows.

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16. A vertical bagging apparatus for use with a roll of center folded packaging material, said apparatus comprising:

- a) an upstream feeder spool for holding the roll of center folded packaging material; and
- b) a downstream sealing and severing means for sealing the packaging material and severing it from the roll, wherein said sealing and severing means includes a heated bar having a continuous flat head and an opposed, non-heated sealing surface having a sharp profile,
said continuous flat head and said sealing surface being adapted to press against each other without said sharp profile entering into any discontinuity in said flat head.